


Domestic Violence: What it is!



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Definition of Domestic Violence

Any abusive or coercive behavior or threat used to control an intimate partner.

The coercive behavior includes **multiple** actions:

- a **pattern** of manipulative and violent tactics toward the victims.
- by which victims are **forced** to change their behavior in response to the abuse.



Definition of Domestic Violence cont.

- Perpetrated by adults or adolescents against their intimate partner.
- Occurring in current or former dating, married or cohabitating relationships. This includes heterosexual, same-sex, bisexual and transgender people.

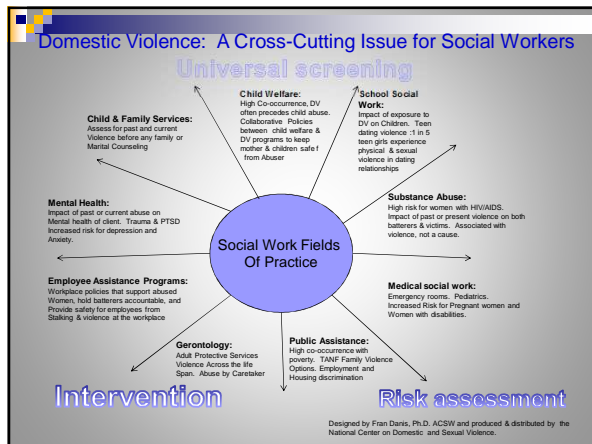
Definition of Domestic Violence cont.

- Domestic violence, domestic abuse and intimate partner violence are interchangeable.
- The violence may happen often, or it may not. In either case it remains a hidden and constant terrorizing factor in the relationship.

Definition of Domestic Violence cont.

- may include psychological and verbal abuse, sexual assault/abuse, progressive social isolation, deprivation, intimidation, or economic coercion.
- without intervention the attacks may become more frequent and severe.

Domestic Violence: A Cross-Cutting Issue for Social Workers



Domestic Violence Crimes May Include:

In the United States:

- Simple Assault
- Vandalism/Malicious Damage
- Disorderly Conduct
- Violation of Protective Order
- Trespassing
- Failure to relinquish or to damage or to destruct a telephone


Domestic Violence Crimes May Include: cont.

In the U.S. cont:

- Felony Assault
- Stalking
- Sexual Assault
- Kidnapping
- Child Snatching
- Homicide


Facts

- Alcohol does not cause domestic violence.
- Alcohol and other drugs can increase the frequency and severity of violence due to poor impulse control and loss of inhibition, but it does not cause domestic violence.
- It is important to take note that many men abuse alcohol and/or other drugs and do not abuse their partners.
- There are sober abusers.




Facts

- Domestic violence not caused by anger and loss of temper. It is caused by **attitudes and beliefs that one person has the right to control another.**
- Anger is an **excuse** for batterers to “go off.”
- If abusers couldn’t control themselves, they’d beat up their bosses at work.
- Abusers are able to control themselves at work because they’re not allowed to “go off” and hurt others. It is only in the privacy of the home that abusers “lose control.”
- It works!**



Common Myths about Domestic Violence

- An anger management problem
- A learned behavior
- An alcohol or other drug problem
- Just a bad relationship thing
- A family issue
- It’s a man’s right to run his own home
- It’s not our business if he rules hard



“The Victim is too often Viewed as the Cause of Domestic Violence.”

- Her fault - she must like it.
- she must have “asked for it” through her behavior.
- if she can’t keep her man content - *she’s responsible for how he acts.*
- **her job** to see that all is well and running smoothly at home.
- She can’t be a real victim if she doesn’t look/act like a victim.

Cultural Considerations

Things to keep in mind when responding to domestic violence victims, since they play a role in the tactics batterers use to control their victims.

They are also some of the personal biases helpers may have about victims.

Cultural Considerations cont.

- Age
- Language
- Gender
- Faith
- Physical/Mental Disabilities
- Ethnic/Cultural Background
- Immigration Status
- Education
- Socioeconomic Class
- Sexual Orientation

BATTERING

Key Point: For the batterer, the violence is about power and control. Looking at the victim's behavior as an explanation for the violence takes the focus off the perpetrator's responsibility, and unintentionally supports the abuser's violent behavior.

BATTERING cont.

- The victim has *no control* over the batterer's violence.
- Many perpetrators repeat their pattern of control in all of their intimate relationships.

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BATTERING cont.

- *Society Says It's Okay.* For too long, our society has condoned abuse in families and failed to hold batterers accountable for violence.
- *It Works.* Terrorized by the abuse, the victim will say or do anything to survive.

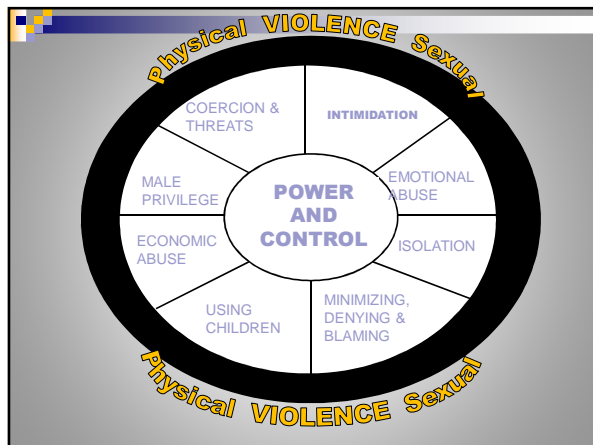
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BATTERING cont.

It's a choice. The batterer chooses to use violence to maintain power and control over the victim. Just like the batterer, everyone has problems, gets angry, and has stress, but *not everyone chooses to use violence.*

BATTERING cont.

- ***Control*.** Abuser wants total control of the victim and family and may use a combination of violent and abusive tactics to achieve and maintain control.
- **Learned Behavior.** It is learned from childhood, schools, peers, sports, and the media.



Power and Control cont.

At the core of domestic violence (represented by the Power and Control Wheel) are the tactics batterers use.

Power and Control

- Batterers seek to **gain** and **maintain** power and control over their intimate partners by use of **actual** and **assumed** power.
- Power takes the form of strategic, abusive tactics (physical, sexual, verbal, emotional) to reinforce this control.

Risk of Lethality

- ☐ "I can't live without you. If I can't have you, no one else will."
- ☐ Suicide threats or attempts
- ☐ Murdering of pet
- ☐ Access to guns/weapons
- ☐ Obsessive about partner/ex-partner
- ☐ Stalking/Harassment
- ☐ End of Relationship
- ☐ Employment loss

Domestic Homicides

- Women who leave their batterers are at a 75% **greater** risk of being killed by their batterer than those who stay.
- One U.S. study revealed that 1/2 of the homicides of female spouses and partners were committed by men, **after** they separated from their abusers.

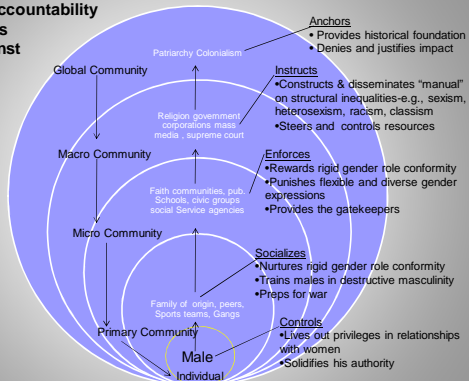
4 OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS


- The batterer stops abuse/violence
- She leaves
- The battering continues
- Someone dies

Women Who Use Violence

- Women can be abusive to their partners.
- Women do not typically accompany their violence with intimidation, sexual assault, and coercion, even in abusive relationships.


Community-Accountability Model of Men's Violence Against Women






Profile of an Abuser

- Entitlement thinking
- Avoidance of feelings of helplessness, fear and powerlessness
- Denial about the impact his behavior has on himself and others



Profile of an Abuser cont.

- Benefits from institutional and cultural forms of inequality
- Potentially aggravating factors: substance abuse and mental illness
 - *Issues in Family Violence, A National Quarterly Newsletter, The Non-Violence Alliance, Middletown, CT. Winter 2002, Volume 4, No.2*



Profile of an Abuser cont.

Signs of a Battering Personality:

- ☐ Jealousy
- ☐ Quick Involvement
- ☐ Controlling Behavior
- ☐ Isolating Behavior
- ☐ Blames Others for Problems/Feelings
- ☐ Unrealistic Expectations
- ☐ Rigid Sex Roles

Profile of an Abuser cont.

Signs of a Battering Personality cont.:

- ☐ Hypersensitivity
- ☐ "Playful" Use of Force in Sex
- ☐ Verbal Abuse
- ☐ Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Moods
- ☐ Breaking or Striking Objects
- ☐ Past History of Battering



5 Things to Say to an Abuser

- "I'm afraid you'll really hurt her badly or kill her next time."
- "I'm afraid you'll hurt your children."
- "It will only get worse."
- "I'm here for you when you're ready to change."
- "No one, including you, has the right to abuse/hurt another person."

Barriers to Leaving

1. No money/Less Money
2. Fear for children
3. Religious pressures
4. Family shame
5. Lack of education/
training
6. Cultural Isolation
7. Transportation
8. Fear
9. No Laws
10. Housing
11. Child-care
12. Denial
13. Hopes for change
14. Want to save "family"
15. LOVE
16. Depression
17. Fear of retaliation
18. Afraid police won't
respond

5 Things to Say to a Victim

- "I'm afraid for your safety."
- "I'm afraid for the safety of your children."
- "It will only get worse."
- "I'm here for you."
- "You don't deserve to be abused."

How Prevalent Is Teen Dating Violence?

- Girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence.¹
- One in five high school girls is physically or sexually hurt by a dating partner.²
- As many as one-third of teens experience some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.³
- One in three teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, or physically hurt by a partner. Forty-five percent of teen girls know someone who has been pressured or forced into having intercourse or oral sex.⁴
- The vast majority of teens consider verbal and physical abuse to be serious issues in their age group.⁵
- Only 33 percent of teens who have been in or known about an abusive dating relationship report having told anyone about it.⁶

1. Colin M. Renshaw (2005), Intimate partner violence and age of victim, 1985-1999, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.
2. Lindsay. Taylor (2005), Is it really? Partner violence among adolescents is separate sex violence, unpublished. Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, National Center of Health Studies, 2005.
3. Paul A. Muroff et al. (2005), Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance abuse, sexually transmitted disease, mental and physical morbidity, and suicidality, Journal of the American Medical Association, 293, 173.
4. USA Children, Inc. Teen Dating Violence Survey, 2005.
5. USA Children, Inc. Teen Dating Violence Survey, 2005.
6. USA Children, Inc. Teen Dating Violence Survey, 2005.

Common clues that indicate a teenager may be experiencing dating violence:


- > **Physical signs of injury**
- > **Dropping out of school**
- > **Failing grades**
- > **Indecision**
- > **Changes in mood or personality**
- > **Use of drugs/alcohol**
- > **Pregnancy**
- > **Emotional outburst**
- > **Isolation**

What to say to a teen survivor:

- If you are a teenager involved in an abusive relationship, you need to remember that no one deserves to be abused or threatened.
- Remember you cannot change your batterer, and in time the violence will get worse.
- If you think you are in abusive relationship...tell your mom...dad...your teacher....your friends.... a trusted adultlocate a shelter or agency serving victims of domestic abuse in your community.
- Together, you can talk about making a plan to end the relationship and remain safe.
- You need to take care of yourself...

CHOOSE RESPECT


- The central messages of **CHOOSE RESPECT** stress the importance of giving and getting respect including:
 - Give Respect. Get Respect.
- It's a choice. You can choose whether to treat your girlfriend, boyfriend, or friends with respect and consideration, or do whatever it takes to get your own way.
- Lots of factors influence how our kids grow up and the choices they make. When life gets complicated, it can be easy to forget the basics—the foundation that helps kids make positive choices in many areas of life. Help kids choose wisely. **CHOOSE RESPECT.**
- Tense situation? Don't hurt the person you care about most. **CHOOSE RESPECT.**
- Respect - It's a black and white issue. There's no room for gray.



Loveisrespect.org
Thatsnotcool.com

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
■ 1-866-331-9474

National Domestic Violence Hotline
■ 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
■ 1-866-331-8453 TTY



Dynamics of Domestic Violence

Questions?
